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#### PROVISIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

FOREIGN RADIOBROADCASTUNG RECEPTION POTENTIAL IN ALBANIA

CIA/RR PR-44

(ORR Project 46.271)

4 February 1954

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CIA/RR PR-44 (ORR Project 46.271)

#### FOREIGN RADIOBROADCASTING RECEPTION POTENTIAL IN ALBANIA\*

#### Summary

The aggregate radiobroadcasting reception base in Albania is very small. Although Albania is a small compact country with a population of approximately 1.2 million, there is only 1 radiobroadcast receiver for every 63 persons. Its transmission base is small, although probably adequate for the area to be covered. Relatively little foreign effort is made to reach the small number of receivers located in the country, mainly in the urban and suburban areas.

Since World War II the radiobroadcasting organization has gone through a number of changes, apparently to achieve tighter control of facilities and program content. Albania depends principally upon other Soviet Bloc countries for radio equipment and technical assistance. Neither television nor frequency modulation (FM) broadcasting has yet been started there, nor is there evidence that such systems are in the planning stage.

Unlike most of the other Soviet Bloc countries, Albania thus far has done little toward radiofication\*\* of the country through wire-diffusion\*\*\* broadcast distribution or even through group listening. Measures to prevent listening to non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts through the use of independent radiobroadcast receivers tend to restrict such listening or to drive it underground. Confiscation of receivers has occurred in isolated cases, but there has been no general confiscation. The effort expended on jamming Western radiobroadcasts is slight by comparison with the effort expended in

<sup>\*</sup> This report contains information available as of 1 January 1954.

\*\* Radiofication (radiofikatsiya) is a general Russian term meaning the development of radio on the consumer side, thus including the manufacture and distribution of radiobroadcast receivers and loudspeakers as well as the organization of listening.

Wire-diffusion radio is a system of loudspeakers which are connected to a central program distribution point by either telephone circuits or by special strung-wire lines. The program distribution points are, in turn, connected to the broadcasting station by either wire lines or, in the case of small places and remote areas, by radiobroadcast receiving units. In effect, it is State control of program and station selection.

other countries of the Soviet Bloc. Apparently, most of the approximately 20,000 receivers in Albania can receive high frequencies (short waves). The better receivers are, for the most part, located in the urban areas and are in the hands of the higher income social levels. The few receivers available to the lower income rural populace apparently are relatively insensitive inexpensive crystal sets.

Some non-Soviet Bloc radiobroadcast reception is taking place, perhaps on a narrow base, but there are indications that this base is appreciably broadened through word-of-mouth distribution. It is estimated that Albania will slowly improve its domestic radiobroadcasting service, chiefly through expansion of reception facilities, and at the same time attempt to improve its control over listening in order better to develop the moods, thinking, and behavior of the populace along communist lines.

## I. Transmission Facilities of Foreign Broadcasters to Albania.

Latest available figures indicate that there are approximately 36.75 weekly program hours being broadcast to Albania by foreign broadcasters. In total number of original program hours broadcast directly to Albania, non-Soviet Bloc countries exceed the Soviet Bloc by approximately 3 times, with a total of 19.5 hours weekly for the Western democracies and 8 hours for Yugoslavia, against 9.25 hours for the USSR and Bulgaria. These are original hours and do not include rebroadcast hours. Repeat broadcasts of VOA (Voice of America) and Voice of Free Albania programs further increase the total of Western broadcast transmission time to 45 hours weekly. This is somewhat counterbalanced, however, by 3.75 hours weekly of Moscow-originated programs which are broadcast by Albanian stations as a part of the Albanian Home Service. Table 1\* shows the breakdown of these programs by country and numbers of frequencies employed.

## A. Radio Free Europe (RFE).

Since 1 October 1953, RFE has not transmitted any programs in the Albanian language. Up to 1 October 1953 the general service of RFE transmitted programs in Albanian utilizing one 50-kilowatt (kw) transmitter on 6,095 kilocycles (kc) and one 10-kw transmitter on 7,300 kc located at Biblis, Germany. These broadcasts, comprised of news, news commentary, and misic were transmitted daily at 1845 to 1915 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and were repeated in full at 2015 to 2045 GMT and in part from 2345 to 0000 GMT.

<sup>\*</sup> Table 1 follows on p. 3.

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Table 1

Reported Foreign Broadcasts to Albania: Weekly Program Hours and

Number of Frequencies Used 1/\*

Fall 1953

		Number of Frequencies				
Originating Nation	Original Weekly Program Hours	High a/	Medium b/ and Low c/			
USSR Bulgaria	7.50 1.75	3 2	0			
Yugoslavia	8.00	2	2			
UK Italy Vatican City Greece US (VOA) Clandestine (probably Greece)	5.25 4.75 0.75 1.75 3.50	4 4 1 9	1 0 1 0			
Total	36.75					

a. <u>High frequencies</u> extend from 3,000 to 30,000 kilocycles and are often referred to as short waves.

These programs were prepared in New York and relayed to Biblis for transmission. This service reportedly has been discontinued because of financial and technical difficulties. 2/

## B. Voice of America (VOA).

VOA originates two 15-minute daily programs (3.5 hours weekly) in the Albanian language. For the most part these programs originate in New York, but some news programs originate in VOA's Munich Radio Center. These programs, featuring chiefly news and commentary, are broadcast from 1715 to 1730 GMT

b. <u>Medium frequencies</u> extend from 300 to 3,000 kilocycles and are often referred to as medium waves.

c. Low frequencies extend from 30 to 300 kilocycles and are often referred to as long waves.

<sup>#</sup> Footnote references in arabic numerals are to sources listed in Appendix C.

and from 2015 to 2030 GMT simultaneously by transmitters in the Eastern US; Tangier, North Africa; and Munich, Germany, employing simultaneously from 7 to 9 high frequencies and 1 medium frequency. Repeat broadcasts of the original programs on both high and medium frequencies, both from transmitters in the US and from points in Europe, increase broadcasting time to Albania to 14 hours weekly. Details of VOA's program schedule to Albania are given in Table 2.

Table 2
Schedule of VOA Broadcasts to Albania 3/
13 September 1953

Time (GMT)	Program Content	Transmitting Locations	Frequencies (kc)		
1715 to 1730	News News Fratures International Commentary	USA Tangier Munich	17,760, 15,330 15,150, 11,760, 9,635 7,250, 6,140, 6,080, 3,980, 1,195		
1815 to 1830	Repeat of 1715 to 1730	USA Tangier	17,830, 17,795, 15, 165, 15,130 11,940, 9,500		
1845 to 1900	Repeat of 1715 to 1730	Salonika	791		
2015 to 2030	News News Features International Commentary	USA Munich Tangier	17,795, 15,165, 15,130, 11,890, 9,650 7,115, 6,140 11,870		
2115 to 2130	Repeat of 2015 to 2030	Munich	1, 195		
22:40 to 22:45	Repeat of 2015 to 2030	Courier Tangler	7,200, 6,015, 1,260 11,940, 9,635, 9,545, 7,270, 7,235, 7,160		
0430 to 0445	Repeat of 2015 to 2030	Tengier	11, 940, 9, 650, 9, 635, 7, 270, 7, 160, 6, 080		
1200 to 1215	Repeat of 2015 to 2030	Tangier	15, 345, 15, 295, 11, 760, 9, 635		

25X6A



#### D. Other Western Broadcasters.

Italy, Vatican City, and Greece also broadcast programs to Albania. These consist chiefly of news and news commentary in 15-minute broadcasts for a total of 7.25 hours weekly. For these ptograms, Italy employs 4 high frequencies; Vatican City, 4 high frequencies and 1 medium frequency; and Greece, 1 high frequency. 5/

#### E. Anti-Communist Clandestine Broadcasts.

A clandestine station, the Voice of Free Albania, operated by the National Committee for Free Albania began operation in September 1951. In December 1951, direction-finder bearings indicated that the transmitter was probably located in Greece. 6/ It operates on various frequencies of the 6-megacycle (mc) band on fairly regular time schedules. Its transmission from 0600 to 0630 GMT is usually repeated from 1230 to 1300 GMT and from 1730 to 1800 GMT daily. Its programs consist of news and commentary and indicate that the operators of the station are well informed on conditions within Albania. 7/

#### F. Foreign Communist Broadcasters.

Both the USSR and Bulgaria transmit programs to Albania. The USSR broadcasts 7.5 hours per week and Bulgaria 1.75. The USSR employes 3 high frequencies and 1 medium frequency, and Bulgaria employs 2 high frequencies for the transmission of these broadcasts. The programs from the USSR consist of news, news commentary, and features. The program from Bulgaria is a daily 15-minute news broadcast. 8/

Mugoslavia originates the largest number of total hours of original programs addressed to Albania of any foreign nation, producing 8 hours weekly. Two high frequencies and 2 medium frequencies are employed in these transmissions. In addition to programs addressed directly to Albania, Yugoslav broadcasting stations at Skolpje and Prishtina also broadcast on medium frequencies approximately 14.5 hours weekly of their home service programs in the Albanian language to serve the Albanian-speaking population in Yugoslavia. Because of the geographical proximity of these transmitters,

they may furnish some service within the territorial limits of Albania. 9/

#### II. Albanian Broadcasting System.

## A. History and Organization of the System.

Albania possessed no radiobroadcast transmitting facilities until 1938, when a transmitter was installed near Tirana. In 1939 the Albanian Broadcasting Corporation, under Italian control, was formed. 10/

At the close of World War II, Albania was dominated by the Communist-controlled National Edberation Front. On 10 January 1946, Albania was declared a People's Republic, and, on 14 March 1946, a new constitution was adopted. 11/ As in other Soviet Bloc countries, all telecommunications facilities are owned and operated by the State. Between 1946 and 1953, radiobroadcasting in Albania appears to have undergone numerous organizational shifts and changes. In 1947, all aspects of radiobroadcasting were placed under the jurisdiction of the Managing Committee of the State Broadcasting Organization. This committee was an autonomous administration under the immediate direction of the Frime Minister. Autonomous administrations, subordinate to the Managing Committee, were created in each locality where broadcasting stations operated. The responsibilities of the Managing Committee included the organization of the general services for broadcasting; program coordination, planning, management of all broadcasting stations; study of conditions and technical standards, training of staff and publication of technical literature; maintaining relations with foreign countries in broadcasting matters; and liaison with Posts, Telegraph, and Telephone (PTT) managements. 12/

In 1950 the broadcasting stations were reported to be owned and operated by the State Rediocasting and Radiofication Enterprise, a State agency. 13/ There was also reported to have been in existence a General Directorate of Broadcasting. 14/ Whether these titles apply to the same organization or are successive titles to the same organization, or whether they represent separate organizations is not known. The Press and Propaganda Office is also believed to have had some control of broadcasting in 1950. 15/

In December 1950 a Committee on Radio Broadcasting, attached to the Council of Ministers, was created. It owned and operated the radiobroad—casting transmitting facilities. The chief function of the committee is reported to be the "organization of radiocasting for the education, entertainment, and raising of the political, cultural and artistic standards of the masses and for their mobilization in the performance of their duties

assigned to them by the People's Authority." Other functions included support in the creation of socialism and maintenance of contact with Albanians in foreign lands. 16/ In 1950 the civil telecommunication facilities were said to be controlled by the Ministry of Communications, Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones. 17/

By late 1952 the Ministry of Communications, Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones apparently had been supplanted by a Ministry of Communications, which at that time was reported to have five departments, namely, Departments of Railways, Land Transports; Supplies; Ports, Procurement; and Telecommunications. The details of this reorganization are not available. 18/

On 23 July 1953 a general governmental reorganization included the formation of a new Ministry of Trade and Communications (merging the former Ministries of Internal Trade, Foreign Trade and Communications) and a new Ministry of People's Education and Culture (merging the former Ministry of People's Education, the Committee for Arts and Culture, the Committee for Broadcasting, and the Committee for Publications). 19/ This reorganication removed the Committee on Radio Broadcasting from direct supervision by the Council of Ministers and placed it within the framework of the new Ministry of People's Education and Culture. Whether or not it maintains operational liaison with telecommunications components of the Ministry of Trade and Communications is not known.

The government of Albania, acting through the Committee on Radiobroadcasting, has entered into agreements providing for the exchange of program materials with other Soviet Bloc countries.

## B. Transmitting Facilities.

## 1. Description of Facilities.

The first radio transmitter in Albania was installed by the government near Tirana in 1938. It operated on high frequencies with an estimated output of 3 km. It was employed part time for broadcasting and part time for fixed radiotelephone and radiotelegraph service with Italy. In 1940, plans were made to add a more powerful 50-km medium-frequency transmitter for the broadcasting service, but these plans appear to have been abandoned or laid aside because of World War II.

In 1943, Italian-built broadcasting transmitters were reported to be in service in Tirana, Korce, and Gjinokaster, operating on medium frequencies and at Peshkopi (frequency not known), relaying the programs originating at Tirana.

In 1946, Radio Tirana employed its one 3-kw high-frequency transmitter for broadcasting the Albanian International Service and the Albanian Home Service, devoting 3.25 hours daily to the International Service and 4.5 hours daily to the Home Service. A medium-frequency radiobroadcasting station was in operation at Shkoder (Scutari), and the station at Peshkopi was no longer in service. 20/

By 1951, radiobroadcasting stations had been added at Stalin and Vlora, and work had begun on the construction of a 50-kw medium-frequency station near Tirana. 21/ This station began operation in February or March 1952. The transmitter, purportedly a "gift" of the USSR, is alleged to have been of Hungarian manufacture and to have been paid for by Albania by delivery to the USSR of raw materials valued at \$800,000. Installation was under the supervision of Soviet personnel, and Czechoslovak, Hungarian, German, and Polish technical personnel are reported to have participated. It is improbable that technicians from so many countries actually were involved, but it is a reasonable assumption that the technicians were of other than Albanian nationality. 22/

At present there are 9 transmitters at the 6 locations. Both medium and high frequencies are employed at Tirana and Korce, high frequencies only are employed at Vlora and Shkoder, and medium frequencies only are employed at Gjinokaster and Stalin. The Five Year Plan of the Albanian People's Republic (1951-55) foresees the construction of a new Radio House in Tirana, encompassing modern radiobroadcasting techniques in studio design. There is no evidence that this Radio House has been constructed or is actually under construction. 23/

From the sparse information available and because of the mountainous terrain of the area, it is impossible to estimate the radio-broadcasting coverage of Albania. Four of the stations are located in the southern portion, 1 in the central portion, and 1 in the northern portion of the country. Their reported locations, power, and frequencies of operation are shown in Table 3.\*

## 2. Utilization of Facilities.

Radio Tirana originates both the Albanian International Service and the Albanian Home Service. The Albanian International Service is directed to audiences abroad, and the Albanian Home Service is addressed to the national audience.

In 1946 the Albanian International Serivce offered daily 3.25 hours of programs in 10 languages, including Albanian, with 15- to 30-minute

<sup>\*</sup> Table 3 follows on p. 9.

Table 3

Reported Radiobroadcasting Stations in Albania.

1 October 1953 24/

City	Power (kw)	Frequency (kc)
Gjinokaster Korce	0.25 0.20 0.10	1,430 1,088 5,820, 8,500
Shkođer (Scutari)	0.20	8,215
Stalin (Kncov)	0.10	1,200
Tirena	50.00 3.00	1,358 4,880, 6,084, 6,560, 7,210, 7,850, 9,960, 15,630
Vlore	0.10	8, 500

programs devoted to Serbo-Croat, Italian, Rumanian, Russian, Bulgarian, Turkish, French, Greek, English, and Albanian. In 1951 the total program time had increased to 5 hours daily. In 1952 a German-language program was added. By the summer of 1953 the Albanian International Service had been expanded to 8.5 hours daily. In consideration of the relatively weak signal of Radio Tirana's high-frequency transmitter, the effectiveness of its signal at any great distance is questionable. The motivation behind the policy to broadcast programs in such a variety of languages, with the attendant expense in program preparation, translation, and announcement is not known.

There appears to have been a marked change in policy in September 1953. All programs in languages of other Soviet Bloc countries and in Turkish were discontinued, but the length of programs being broadcast in Albanian, French, and English and in the languages of Albania's neighboring countries -- Greek, Serbo-Croat, and Italian -- was increased so that total radiobroadcast time of the Albanian International Service was reduced by only 1.5 hours -- to 7 hours daily. This shift to longer programs in languages with the greater audience potential appears to be a move toward more effective utilization of facilities at less cost. 25/

#### S-E-C-R-E-T

The Albanian Home Service has been expanded from 4.5 hours daily in 1946 to 11 hours daily in 1951 and 14.5 hours on Sunday in 1953. Moscow-originated programs are included daily in its schedule. The stations at Vlora, Korce, Gjinokaster, and Stalin relay portions of the Albanian Home Service. Complete time schedules of these stations are not available. Shkoder not only relays portions of the Albanian Home Service, but also originates some programs of local interest.

Extensive use is made of the 50-kw medium-frequency transmitter at Tirana. It is employed for the transmission of the Albanian Home Service until its conclusion at 2200 GMT. Then it is shifted to transmission of the International Service programs in Greek, Serbo-Croat, and Italian. This should result in the laying down of a considerably stronger signal in the neighboring countries of Greece, Italy, and Yugoslavia during the hours 2200 to 2330 GMT.

The one Albanian program addressed to North America weekly is relayed to Radio Sofia (Bulgaria) for transmission by its more powerful high frequency transmitter after the regular day's schedule of programs has been completed and is rebroadcast by Sofia at a later date. 26/

Upon announcement of the intended construction of a 50-kw medium-frequency radiobroadcast transmitter near Tirana, reports from a variety of sources indicate that the Soviet intention was toutilize this transmitter for direct medium-frequency broadcasts to the people of North Africa and the Middle East. These reports gained credibility by the announcement of the Albanian radio on 10 October 1951 of vacancies for German-, Arabic-, and Spanish-speaking announcers. In the summer of 1952, a 15-minute daily radiobroadcast in German was added, which later was increased to 30 minutes daily, but no programs in Spanish or Arabic have been added by Redio Tirana. 27/

In general, medium-frequency radiobroadcast transmission has the greatest audience potential. From the point of view of furtherance of Communist propaganda and for the refutation of radiobroadcasts of the Western nations, an effective medium-frequency radiobroadcast station in Albania would extend geographically the medium-frequency radiobroadcast coverage of the Soviet Bloc in the Mediterranean area. Lack of linguistically capable personnel in Albania should not prevent the use of Albanian transmitters for radiobroadcasts in the language of the Middle East or in Spanish, as such programs could be provided by recorded media or by radio or wire relay from other sources within the USSR. Radio Moscow transmits daily an average of 1.5 hours each of programs in Arabic and Spanish. The reasons for this probable change in plans are not clear, but among the possibilities, the following merit consideration:

- a. Field tests disclosed the strength of the signal laid down in the areas of the Arabic- and Spanish-speaking audiences to be inadequate;
- b. Because of internal conditions in Albania, it was decided that this transmitter was needed for home propaganda purposes; and
- c. Other international political and economic conditions caused a high-level policy decision against pursuing this means of propagandization at the time.

## C. Television and Frequency Modulation.

There are no television or frequency modulation radiobroadcasting stations presently in operation in Albania, nor is there evidence of utilization of these modern techniques during the term of the present Five Year Plan. In May and June 1952 a conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden, attended by representatives of 31 European countries belonging to the International Telecommunication Union, to discuss a frequency allocation plan for Europe for the very-high-frequency (VHF) bands set aside for broadcasting by the International Telecommunication and Radio Conferences, Atlantic City, 1947.\* At the Stockholm conference, the delegation of the USER presented for consideration a complete frequency assignment plan for the VHF broadcasting bands for all Europe. The plan included proposed frequency assignments for four locations in Albania. \*\* This, however, appears to represent an attempt at international allocation of an unexploited common resource rather than immediate need of or intention to utilize this resource by the government of Albania. Albania had no direct representation at this conference. The statement of Albania's requirements was signed by a member of the Rungarian delegation in the name of the People's Republic of Albania. 28/

## III. Receiving Equipment in Albania.

## A. Number, Characteristics, and Distribution of Radiobroadcast Receivers.

#### 1. Number.

In most countries of the Soviet Bloc, much publicity has been given during the postwar years to the growth of radiofication. This

At the Atlantic City conferences a worldwide service (for example, broadcasting, fixed, maritime, seronautical), allocation of the radio spectrum was adopted.

The proposed assignment plan of the USSR was not adopted by the Stockholm conference, and the assignment plan as finally drawn up was not accepted by the countries of the Soviet Bloc.

S-E-C-R-E-T

information, for Albania, is sparse, fragmentary, and vague and is believed to be unreliable. Table 4 shows information from finished intelligence papers and from broadcasting trade journal sources as to the reported numbers of radiobroadcast receivers in Albania in selected years from 1938 to 1952. The figures for the years 1946-49 are believed to be inaccurate.

Reported Numbers of Radiobroadcast Reception Facilities in Albania Selected Years, 1930-52

1938 1939 1943 1946 (end of November) 1947 (end of November) 1948 (end of year) 1949 1950 1951 1952 15,000-19,000 29/ 30/ 30/ 31/ 20,000 31/ 32/ 40,025 b/ 33/ 34/ 1952		The state of the s
	1939 1943 1946 (end of November) 1947 (end of November) 1948 (end of year) 1949 1950	4,000 30/ 7,500 31/ 20,000 a/ b/ 32/ 28,545 a/ b/ 33/ 40,025 b/ 34/ 40,000-45,000 b/ 35/ 20,000 36/ 19,000 37/

a. Number of listeners.

In 1943 there were estimated to have been 7,500 radiobroadcast receivers in Albania. An official census of radio listeners is reported to have disclosed 20,000 listeners as of 1 December 1946 and 28,545 listeners as of 1 December 1947. Whether these figures represent the number of licenses for independent receivers and for wired loudspeakers or a census of the number of persons in households having radiobroadcast receivers and loudspeakers is not clear. The figure 40,025 for the end of 1948 is qualified as the "number of sets in use," in 1 technical journal and "includes listeners (underscoring supplied) and subscribers to relay exchanges in another technical journal. Figures published on broadcast reception for 1946-49 indicate that wire-diffusion loudspeakers are included as well as independent receivers.

Inferences drawn from published data imply an average annual increase of nearly 7,000 subscribers to wire-diffusion systems for the

b. Includes subscribers to relay exchanges. Figures are not fully understood and are believed to be inaccurate. (See text.)

4-year period 1946-49. This figure is dependent upon a number of assumptions.

- a. The number of independent receivers increased from 7,500 in 1943 to 10,000 in 1946, and the installation of wire-diffusion systems began in 1946.
- b. The number of independent receivers increased by average annual increments of 2,500 from 10,000 in 1946 to 20,000 in 1950, and there were, therefore, 17,500 independent receivers in 1949.
- c. The figure of 45,000 shown in Table 4 for 1949 includes independent receivers and subscribers to wire-diffusion systems.

A total of 27,500 subscribers to wire-diffusion systems in 1949 is obtained by subtracting 17,500 independent receivers from the 45,000 figure. Hence the average rate of growth in subscribers to wire-diffusion systems during the 4-year period would appear to be 6,875.

More recent information from Radio Tirana, however, does not support this rate of growth but indicates that radiofication is hardly begun. A typical example is quoted:

#### CPYRGHT

"The progressive extention of radio throughout the country has continued successfully. In 1950, 170 loudspeakers were installed in workers' centers, clubs, etc. Seven receiving stations were set up in towns of some size which had none, and 60 wired relay centers were installed in Tirana (cultural centers, various establishments) and other towns." 39/

CPYRGHT

In 1951, 70 wired radio centers were reported to be in operation. 40/ In 1952 the Albanian Radio Committee is reported to have imported 180 loud-speakers and a considerable number of amplifiers. 41/ There were also reported to be "11 powerful radio-receiving and wire-transmitting centers and 800 smaller ones in Albania." 42/

CPYRGHT I

Albania's Five Year Plan does not place so great emphasis on radiofication as on education and the establishment of cultural institutions.\* The Plan includes an increase in Albanian "Houses of Culture" to 25 and in the number of reading rooms to 343. Albanian radio-broadcasts continually stress education at all levels, but there is no indication that radiobroadcasting facilities are being employed in relation thereto.

In the details of Albania's Five Year Plan as described in Department of State Intelligence Report No. 6049, 31 December 1952, C, there is no reference to radiofication although much stress is laid on education and cultural institutions.

**- 13** -

S-E-C-R-E-T

There does not appear to have been any general confiscation of receivers under the Communist regime.

The lack of electric power supply except in cities and the lack of sufficient technically trained personnel to operate an extensive wire-diffusion network support the conclusion that wire-diffusion is being carried out very slowly. On 13 February 1953 a press transmission by the Albanian Telegraph Agency (ATA) in French Morse to Europe, which is quoted below, gave further support to the paucity of radiofication installations.

"... in towns and large industrial centers where electric power is available, besides increasing the number of ordinary sets a start will be made (underscoring supplied) along Soviet lines with the installation of radio listening centers."

**CPYRGHT** 

#### 2. Characteristics.

Receivers in use in Albania before World War II are reported to have been chiefly of Italian, Netherland (Philips), and German (Telefunken) make. 43/ No descriptions of these receivers are available. Recause of the absence of any transmitting stations in Albania prior to 1938, however, it may be assumed that purchasers of radiobroadcast receivers obtained sets efficient enough to receive programs from some distance. As the Italian station at Bari is reported to have been very popular with the Albanians and to have transmitted some programs in the Albanian language on medium frequencies, it is probable that most of the receivers possessed by Albanians covered the medium-frequency broadcast band. Further, as the first station constructed in Albania broadcast on high frequencies, it may be assumed that a large number of the receivers in Albania were also capable of reception on high frequencies. At the present time, the Albanian Home Service is transmitted on both medium and high frequencies.

Receivers presently in use in Albania are reported to include US, Italian, English, Netherland, and German makes. Most of these receivers are reported to have both medium— and high-frequency reception capabilities. Receivers, powered by external electricity, were reported to have been "reasonably cheap" up to 1950. No battery sets were obtainable.

In 1952, used receivers and new receivers of Czechoslovak and Soviet manufacture were reported to be on unrestricted sale in the State shops in Tirana. The prices of the new receivers ranged from 10,000 to 16,000 leks. We information is available as to their characteristics. 45/

Reginning in late 1952, crystal receivers and battery-powered tube receivers are reported to have been distributed in Albanian villages

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in regions which were not supplied with electricity. The quantity of crystal receivers is not known, but "several hundred" are reported to have been manufactured in Hungary for Albania in 1952. Crystal receivers require no outside source of power, are relatively insensitive, and have little capability to receive distantly transmitted signals. They cost very little by comparison with tube receivers and have a low rate of depreciation. Considerable numbers are in use in the USSR. 46/

#### 3. Distribution.

Distribution of tube broadcast receivers in Albania is limited chiefly to cities where electric power is available. As of 1 January 1952, 5,000 receivers are estimated to have been in use in Tirana, with a large portion of the remainder in Shkoder, Korce, Elbasan, Durres, Vlone, Gjinokaster, and Barat.\* With a national population estimated at 1.2 million and an estimated distribution of 19,000 receivers, there is approximately 1 receiver for every 63 persons. Because distribution of broadcast receivers is limited mainly to urban and suburban areas, perhaps a more accurate picture is obtained by an estimate of 1 receiver to every 10 to 15 persons in urban areas, with negligible distribution in the rural areas. 48/ Crystal receivers or battery-powered tube receivers are reported to have increased distribution in rural areas by 25 percent during 1952. 49/

#### 4. Wire-Diffusion.

Published figures on radiobroadcast reception facilities indicate that loudspeaker installations were included as early as 1946. There is, however, little indication of these installations until 1950. These appear to be of two types. The major centers appear to consist of a central receiver with equipment to relay programs by wire to loudspeakers at various locations within a town or village. The minor centers appear to consist of either a radiobroadcast receiver or direct wire connection to relay programs from the transmitting station to one loudspeaker or to a small number of loudspeakers for group listening in industrial and mining centers, workers clubs, and other semipublic and public gathering places. There is no indication of the installation of wire-diffusion loudspeakers in private dwellings.

Some progress appears to have been made in installation of wirediffusion systems in 1950 and 1951, which has probably been continued, but

<sup>\*\*</sup> Estimated populations: Tirana, 80,000; Shkoder, 34,000; Korce, 24,000; Elbasan, 15,000; Durres, 15,000; Vione, 15,000; Gjinokaster, 11,000; and Barat, 12,000. 47/

there is insufficient information available to warrant presentation in tabular form.

#### B. Availability of Radiobroadcast Receivers.

#### 1. Manufacture.

Albania had negligible industrial development prior to the accession of the Communist regime. There is no evidence of production of telecommunications equipment.

A State-owned radio repair shop is located in Tirena. 50/

### 2. Imports.

All electronic equipment is imported into Albania. Before World War II, radiobroadcast receivers were obtained mainly from Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany. Under the present regime, all electronic equipment appears to be obtained from the USSR and other Soviet Bloc countries. This includes radiobroadcast receivers from the USSR, radiobroadcast receivers and radio materials from Czechoslovakia, radio tubes from East Germany, telephone and radio equipment, batteries, radio tubes, loudspeakers, microphones, and spare parts from Hungary. 51/ The quantities are not known. Because of Albania's low productivity and primitive methods of production, the country is considered an economic liability which the USSR retains as a Satellite, chiefly because of the strategic value of its geographical position on the Mediterranean Sea. The Albanians are not self-sufficient in foodstuffs or other vital necessities of life which must be supplied by the Bloc. 52/ It is highly improbable that the Bloc is furnishing such luxury items as radiobroadcast receivers, except insofer as they are considered necessary to further Soviet Objectives.

#### 3. Availability.

Ownership of rediobroadcast receivers by individuals is not forbidden, and both old and new sets are reported to have been on sale in the State shop in Tirana up to 1952. Purchasers, however, are usually Party organizations, trade unions, and private individuals whose support of the regime is unquestioned.

The new receivers, of Czechoslovak and Soviet manufacture, are reported to be priced at from 10,000 to 16,000 leks (a price economically prohibitive to the general public). Tubes and replacement parts are difficult to obtain. 53/

#### IV. Regulations and Conditions of Listening.

#### A. Regulations.

Freedom to listen to any program they might choose under circumstances of their own choosing was first denied to the Albanians during the period of occupation by the Axis powers in World War II. It was illegal to listen to the Allies' short-wave broadcasts or to listen to any broadcasts in groups of more than three persons, except in public places. Group listening was introduced during this period, when the authorities placed loudspeakers in the village squares in order to increase the total listening audience — but to increase that audience under conditions of surveillance. 54/

Unconfirmed reports state that listening to foreign broadcasts was again expressly forbidden in Albania by a law enacted in January 1953. Under this law, persons accused of having listened to foreign broadcasts will be sentenced to between 5 and 20 years in prison and to confiscation of their property, and those who are caught spreading foreign news reports will receive even more severe punishments. 55/

Before January 1953 there was no law, decree, or regulation in Albania which specifically forbade listening to foreign broadcasts, but dissemination of information thus obtained was considered a crime against the State, under the Law for the Defense of Peace, adopted in January 1952, carrying severe punishments, including confiscation of property and long-term imprisonment. In a police state the authorities are not necessarily limited by existing laws, and, conversely, by the lack of the necessary laws if they wish to carry out a certain line of action. The most common methods employed by Albanian authorities to restrict listening to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts appear to have been insinuation and intimidation. Even though there was no specific law against listening to Western broadcasts, the general public was led to believe that it was forbidden. 56/This condition prevails in most countries of the Soviet Bloc.

All radiobroadcast receivers are registered and are taxed annually by State authorities. Strict surveillance of ownership is maintained by requiring that the owner present his previous year's permit when making the tax payment. Heavy penalties are provided for those who fail to register their receivers. 57/

Several reports of widespread confiscation of radiobroadcast receivers of the Albanian civil population appear to be discredited by other reports of greater reliability that efficient receivers are still in the hands of the general public. Receivers belonging to persons considered

politically unreliable are reported to have been confiscated, and it is quite probable that other instances of confiscation for "cause" have occurred also. 58/

Another effective means of preventing listening to Western broadcasts which the Albanian authorities are reported to have employed is the cutting off of the electric power supply during the evening hours. 59/

## B. Conditions of Listening.

The ideal situation for listening to Western broadcasts would be for individuals to possess, in their own houses, operable, tunable receivers which include high-frequency components. Such things as reducing the availability and maintenance of high-frequency receivers, installation of wire-diffusion systems, and the use of group listening centers all would have a tendency to minimize the potential number of listeners to these Western broadcasts.

Radio listening plays a negligible part in the life of the average Albanian, except for that one-fifth to one-sixth of the population dwelling in cities supplied with electric power. Those few receivers now being distributed in rural areas lack sensitivity to permit significant reception of Western broadcasts. In the rural areas, therefore, there is no listening audience worthy of the name.

In the cities supplied with electricity, radiobroadcast reception has been fairly commonplace since the 1930's. Until 1950, radiobroadcast receivers were said to be on sale at "reasonably cheap" prices in Tirana. 60/Since 1950 receivers produced by the Soviet Bloc have been priced beyond the economic means of the average individual. The majority of receivers obtained since 1950 have been purchased by Party organizations and trade unions, and it may be assumed that they are assigned to group listening or to highly placed government officials.

Another deterrent to radiobroadcast listening is the lack of a reliable and continuous power supply. There are many reports of lack of electric current supply during the daylight hours and also during the late evening and early morning hours.

The installation of wire-diffusion nets precludes freedom of program selection by the listener. This is not yet, however, extensive in Albania.

Overriding all other limitations is the fact that all listening to Western broadcasts, perforce, must be accomplished clandestinely in order to escape possible reprisals by the authorities.

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#### C. Jamming.\*

Reports indicate that little jamming was employed through the year 1952, and lack of information on reception in 1953 prevents an accurate current assessment. In the Soviet Bloc, jamming of Western broadcasts is done either by transmitters located in the country toward which the Western broadcast is directed or by transmitters located in other Bloc countries. It is, however, possible that there are technical considerations which prevent an extensive jamming effort in Albania. Among the possibilities are (1) a shortage of jamming transmitters located within Albania, (2) propagation conditions which prevent effective jamming signals coming from other Bloc countries, and (3) an inadequate monitoring system in Albania to direct jamming operations. Nevertheless, it must be presumed that some capability of jamming Western broadcasts to Albania exists.

#### V. Effectiveness of Western Propaganda Broadcasts.

#### A. Size of the Audience.

Reports concerning radiobroadcast listening in Albania are few and have been obtained chiefly from Albanian escapees and returned prisoners of war. No reports are available concerning reception in the year 1953. Those reports of reception before 1953, however, are unique in that they claim unanimously that clandestine listening to Western broadcasts was done regularly by practically everyone who possessed the requisite receiver. It is probable that the Albanian authorities were cognizant of this situation in that Radio Tirans is reported to have issued refutations within hours after a particular program had been transmitted by a Western broadcaster. Although there are only a small number of radiobroadcast receivers in Albania (19,000 to 20,000), the proportinate direct audience for Western broadcasts appears to be unusually high. In addition, the further propagation of Western broadcasts by word-of-mouth is believed to be greater than that of other Soviet Satellite countries. One source estimated that by word-of-mouth relay, approximately 75 percent of the entire Albanian population was kept informed of news of the outside (Western) world.

The reported enactment in January 1953 of a law prohibiting listening to Western broadcasts is a further indicator that widespread listening was prevalent in Albania. The most effective method to prevent listening to Western broadcasts would be the confiscation of radiobroadcast receivers.

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This, however, would also prevent the desired reception of the desired programs, originating in the Soviet Bloc.\* There is no information available from which to estimate the prevalence of clandestine listening to Western broadcasts since January 1953. 61/

#### B. Nature of the Audience.

The direct audience in Albania is limited chiefly to the urban population who possess broadcast receivers. No information is available as to the nature of the listening audience during the year 1953, but from reports covering the postwar years 1946-52 it appears that everyone possessing a radio, including Communist Party members and government officials, listened to foreign broadcasts. In addition to Party members and government officials, this would include mainly civil servants, teachers and others of the small professional group of the population, and former merchants and tradesmen rather than peasant farmers or herdsmen, or the recently appearing industrial worker. 62/

## C. Popular Stations, Frequencies, and Times for Listening.

Because of its unique location, virtually surrounded by the non-Soviet Bloc countries, Greece and Yugoslavia, and with Italy only a short distance away across the Adriatic Sea, and because of the absence of extensive local jamming activities, Albania is quite vulnerable to the reception of Western broadcasts on medium frequencies on a local basis, as well as the more distant high-frequency transmissions of stations of the VOA and BBC. Programs on both medium and high frequencies were easily received in Albania through 1952, with medium-frequency reception dependent to some extent upon precise geographical location.

VOA and BSC programs appeared to be the most popular received on high frequencies, with VOA programs having a slight edge in popularity since 1949. BSC programs are reported to have suffered a decline in popularity when Albanians became distrustful of the BBC Albanian-language announcer and because BBC programs devoted very little time to events occurring within Albania. RFE programs are believed to have had little or no reception in Albania before their discontinuance in October 1953.

Programs received in the early morning, around noon, in the early evening (1500 to 1700, local time) and in the late evening (2200 to 0100, local time) all have some sudience in Albania. Because of working hours, crowded living conditions, and police surveillance, the late evening hours appear to be the preferred time for listening, with the early evening hours in second place. 63/

<sup>\*</sup> There is no evidence of widespread confiscation of radiobroadcast receivers in any country in the Soviet Bloc.

#### D. Some Economic Effects of Western Broadcasts.

The economic effects of Western broadcasts upon any country of the Soviet Bloc may usually be considered as (1) the effort expended to prevent or minimize listening to such broadcasts and (2) the effects of these broadcasts on the moods, thinking, and behavior of the people.

As regards Albania, there appears to be no significant expenditure of either manpower or materials to prevent listening. Surveillance personnel does not appear to exceed that employed for routine police surveillance measures. The amounts of material and manpower invested in the establishment of group listening centers and radiofication is believed to be very small.

Radio Tirana is reported to have issued refutations of various Western broadcasts within hours of their transmission. Obviously, some personnel are devoted to monitoring such broadcasts and the preparation of refutations. It is probable, however, that such programs serve to further the Communist Party propaganda line, and their preparation can hardly be classed as an extraneous economic expenditure.

As to the effects of Western broadcasts upon the moods, thinking, and behavior of the people, the Communist reign of terror over the traditionally rebellious-to-authority Albanians is reported to be so strict and extensive as to preclude any efforts at quality sabotage of products or at work slowdowns in Albania's newly created industries. The difference between ability to produce and willingness to produce, which can be a very important factor in total production, cannot be measured in relation to the influence of Western broadcasts over the population. The chief value of Western broadcasts appears to be their salutary effect in sustaining the morale of those Albanians who hope for eventual liberation from Communist control. 64/

#### WI. Trends and Conclusions.

The installation of the 50-kw transmitter near Tirana was the only major addition to the radiobroadcasting transmission base in Albania included in the current Five Year Plan. It is probable that present radio-broadcasting coverage of the country is fair, despite its mountainous terrain. In consideration of its present coverage and in juxtaposition to the planned industrialization of Albania with its program of development of mining, water power resources, and manufacturing, the further extension of Albania's broadcasting transmission base appears unlikely. There is no evidence of plans for development of either aural or visual

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broadcasting on very high frequencies (VHF), notwithstanding requirements for these services which were submitted to the Stockholm conference in 1952.

General availability of independent radiobroadcast receivers of high sensitivity in Albania appears to have come to an end in about 1950. Sporadic confiscations probably have removed such receivers from the possession of persons considered politically unreliable. Through limitations on imports, both as to quality and number and through prices prohibitive to the general public, the distribution of independent receivers appears to have been controlled effectively since that time. The installation of wire-diffusion nets has been limited to the streets of villages, cultural establishments, and industrial and mining centers. More widespread extension of radiofication probably awaits extension of the electric power net and the training of adequate personnel. It is likely that radiofication of the country will proceed at a very slow rate -- chiefly, through installation of wire-diffusion systems.

Although it is reported that listening to non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts is specifically prohibited in Albania, such listening is helieved to have been widespread among those Albanians who had access to the requisite radiobroadcast receivers before the enactment of the decree. The total audience is believed to have been approximately one-sixth of the population. Further, it is believed that by further word-of-mouth transmission, from 50 percent to 75 percent of the people were kept informed of news of the Western world.

No information is available as to the effect of the reported decree benning non-Soviet Bloc broadcast listening by the public, either as to whether the authorities have been successful in enforcement or even as to the extent of the curtailment of listening.

That Western broadcasts have had a negligible undesirable effect -- to the Albanian authorities -- is indicated by the relatively few preventative measures which have been undertaken. Jamming, which has been the chief method of preventing reception of non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts in other countries of the Soviet Bloc, has not been employed to so great an extent in Albania as in other Bloc countries. Neither has replacement of independent broadcast receivers by radiodiffusion nets been carried out to any marked extent.

From time to time the turning off of the electric power supply during the time of a specific broadcast, sporadic confiscation of broadcast receivers "for cause," and threats and intimidation of the populace appear to have been the chief measures to prevent listening until January 1953, when a decree is reported to have been adopted which specifically prohibited listening to non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts,

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It is believed that the economic effects of foreign broadcasts have been negligible and that such broadcasts have served chiefly to build the morale of those Albanians who hope for eventual liberation from Communist domination.

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APPENDIX A

#### METHODOLOGY

The production of this report has developed mainly qualitative rather than quantitative information. Few precise figures have been included.

The totals of radiobroadcasting hours transmitted to Albanian audiences, both foreign and domestic, were obtained from overtly published material of the broadcasting agencies and from reports based on monitoring.

The estimates of redicbroadcast receivers were obtained chiefly from quasi-official (trade journal) publications of the several European broadcasting organizations. Published figures for the years 1946-50 were rejected in favor of estimates based on figres more recently publicized by the Albanian radio. Because of the confusion in published figures, there is considered to be insufficient data on which to extrapolate estimates on broadcast receivers in Albania to the year 1955 (the last year of the Albanian Five Year Plan).

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#### APPENDIX B

#### GAPS IN INTELLIGENCE

#### 1. General.

No general economic study on Albania was available for background material. There is a general lack of over-all statistical data.

#### 2. Specific.

Additional information is needed on government organization, laws, and State activities concerning broadcasting and radiobroadcasting listening. Confirmation of the reported decree specifically banning reception of non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts is especially needed.

No information is available on the numbers and types of personnel engaged in program and operational aspects of radiobroadcasting in Albania.

No information is available as to the steps being taken to train technical and programming personnel for Albanian radiobroadcasting.

Information on the progress of the installation of wire-diffusion systems is fragmentary and conflicting.

Additional information is also needed on the import, availability, and prices of radiobroadcast receivers.

No information is available on specific instances of listening or conditions of listening to Western broadcasts during the year 1953.

#### 3. Filling Gaps.

Efforts to fill gaps have been proceeding on two broad fronts — the general and the specific. As for the general, a Telecommunications Working Group of the ETC Subcommittee on Requirements and Facilities for Collation has undertaken to develop a complete new set of requirements manuals geared to the specific capabilities of the various collection agencies, along with the establishment of priorities according to subject matter and country. In consonance with this program, working groups of the ETC Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications are now preparing a set of survey sheets on the Soviet Bloc countries, which will measure the state of our intelligence in the field, the deficiencies, and the reasons for the

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the deficiencies. This over-all program, when put into effect, should greatly improve the quantity and quality of raw material and should help to fill some of our more wide-open gaps.

As for the specific efforts, advantage is taken of knowledgeable sources discovered in the daily reading process by the initiation of specific requirements geared to our known gaps and the competence of the source. Such opportunities are rare with respect to Albanian telecommunications.

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#### APPENDIX C

#### SOURCES AND EVALUATION OF SOURCES

1. Evaluation of Sources.

25X1C



#### b. Receiving Equipment in Albania.

25X1C Information on numbers of radiobroadcast receivers before 1946 was obtained from This information is considered reliable. Similar information for the years 1946-50 was obtained chiefly from quasi-official (trade journal) publications of the several European broadcasting organizations. These figures are considered inaccurate, in the light of more recent information publicized by the Albanian radio.

#### c. Regulations and Conditions of Listuning.

Information on the regulations was from overtly published newspapers and information reports. This information is believed to have good reliability, except for the report of the decree banning listening to non-Soviet Bloc broadcasts. The first report of this decree came from the Yugoslav press, and a second report of it came from the Austrian press a few weeks later. This information would have greater credibility if it were confirmed by Soviet Bloc sources.

#### d. Effectiveness of Western Broadcasts.

Information on the size and nature of the audience was obtained almost entirely from unevaluated information reports and was fragmentary in nature. Mevertheless, this information supports conclusions reached by methods of deduction, based on other known factors, and its reliability is believed to be good.

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#### 2. Sources.

25X1A

Evaluations, following the classification entry and designated "Eval.," have the following significance:

Source of Information	Information			
A - Completely reliable B - Usually reliable C - Fairly reliable D - Not usually reliable E - Not reliable F - Cannot be judged	1 - Confirmed by other sources 2 - Probably true 3 - Possibly true 4 - Doubtful 5 - Probably false 6 - Cannot be judged			

Evaluations not otherwise designated are those appearing on the cited document; those designated "RR" are by the author of this report. No "RR" evaluation is given when the author agrees with the evaluation of the cited document.



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